

# crossroads

MSSU Alumni Publication Fall 2012



## Lion proud

For 75 years, no matter  
the name, Missouri Southern  
has been the place for fun,  
fellowship and learning.

## Plus...

Homecoming '12

Alumni Features

Lion Sports

And more!



# crossroads contents



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Cover, from left, Dr. Merrell Junkins, '55; Dr. Tom Flood; Don Miller, '54; Ceci (Veatch) Fritz, '54; and Patty (Gray) Miller, '54, gather at the Stults Memorial Garden on the MSSU Oval. Photo and illustration by Debrah Trout, '13.



For each of us, our history is a formative part of where we are going and who we become. Fortunately, Missouri Southern State University has a strong history of significant community, alumni and legislative support. We are who we are today because so many have seen Southern as a beacon of hope. Our graduates often tell us how proud they are to be alumni, and they attribute their professional success to the solid academic foundation they received at Southern.



In the future, that foundation will continue to support students so they can be successful professionally and as community leaders, and we're working on several projects to help ensure that is the case. During the last year we developed a Facility Master Plan for the University that charts a path to provide students with upgraded facilities, beautified campus spaces, more pedestrian areas, and clear signage to let people know they are entering Lion Country. All this is to improve the learning environment.

In addition, we're working with a national consulting firm on how we can serve our students more effectively and efficiently. Market research is helping us better understand our students' needs and interests. We're also evaluating all our programs on campus to make sure we are allocating our resources in the best way possible to help our students.

All these efforts are designed to promote students first, and we are deeply indebted to our alumni for all they have done and all they continue to do to make Southern the best place for students.

Thank you for being part of the Missouri Southern team.

Best wishes,

Bruce W. Speck, Ph.D., MSSU President

Special  
Collection  
MSSU



Dear Alumni and Friends,

As we near the holiday season, we are half-way through the celebration marking our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Missouri Southern.



It has been an exciting semester, starting with the traditional convocation of the freshman class the day before classes started. During Homecoming, we paid tribute to the first class of Joplin Junior College, the class of 1939. We also recognized our first graduate of the class of 1969, Barbara Blackford Bevins. Former Homecoming royalty rode in the parade on the MSSU 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary float, and friends reunited at *The Chart's* first Hall of Fame induction dinner.

On the 75<sup>th</sup> day of school, we welcomed back our retirees with a special brunch, followed by a cake-cutting ceremony and flag presentation at the Veterans Memorial. We are so looking forward to more events in the spring, including a special presentation of the first play of JJC, "The Patsy."

Brad Belk, local historian and alumni board member, is spearheading the efforts of an historic book. Watch out for details on how to purchase this book and customize your own dedication page.

This journey through our history has been a fun one, and we look forward to a second semester of celebration!

In Lion Pride,

Lee Elliff Pound, '86,  
Alumni Director



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## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

**crossroads** magazine is the official alumni publication of the Missouri Southern State University Alumni Association. The mission is to serve its readers by providing information of interest about the University, its alumni and the Alumni Association and by acting as a channel for Missouri Southern alumni as a "connection for life" with the University.

**crossroads** magazine is published two times a year by the Missouri Southern State University Alumni Association and the Department of Communication. It is mailed to current MSSU Alumni Association members and friends of the University. A select number of copies are distributed on campus each semester.

**crossroads** is written and designed by faculty, staff, students and alumni. The views expressed do not represent the student body, faculty, staff, administration or Missouri Southern State University.

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# Donors help us educate our students

**A**s we celebrate our 75th anniversary, we are reminded that we wouldn't be where we are today without our supporters.

These are people who have given time, expertise and contributions to make it all possible.



It's thanks to our private donors that we have facilities such as the Leggett & Platt Athletic Center, the Beimdiek Recreation Center, the Ralph

L. Gray Alumni Center, the Robert W. Plaster Sports Complex, and all the rooms and equipment within them.

That's not to mention the many scholarships that have been funded to help students attend Missouri Southern and the items that have been donated from laboratory supplies to construction materials.

It takes gifts of all types and sizes to complete and support the facilities and scholarships needed to provide a quality environment in which our students can learn. And if you are a donor, if you've given \$20, \$200, or thousands of dollars, it all makes a difference.

Recently, the Missouri Southern Foundation held its annual Lantern Society Dinner that honors donors who have given a minimum of \$5,000 cumulatively. During this dinner, two donors were honored for demonstrating the spirit of philanthropy through their generosity to Southern and the community.

Ruth Kolpin Rubison was honored as the individual winner of the Spirit of Philanthropy Award. Over the years, she and her foundation have helped many organizations, including the McCune-Brooks Healthcare Foundation, Pro Musica, Joplin Area Catholic Schools, Girl Scouts, Joplin Museum Complex and more.

At Southern she has supported the International Piano Competition, the Pioneer Broadcaster Award, Southern Video Showcase, the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center, the Southern Annual Fund,

and the Media Showcase.

She made it possible for KGCS-TV to move to digital broadcasting. Thanks to her contribution, a new transmitter and antenna were installed in 2008, allowing the station to increase the number of households receiving its signal from 20,000 to 167,000. She also established an endowed scholarship for students majoring in mass communication with an emphasis on broadcasting.

In the corporate category, Freeman Health System was this year's winner of the Spirit of Philanthropy Award. Paula Baker, CEO, accepted the award on behalf of Freeman.

Freeman donates time and resources to many organizations in the community, such as the American Cancer Society, Bright Futures, George A. Spiva Center for the Arts, Lafayette House, and the United Way of Southwest Missouri and Southeast Kansas.

Freeman has been a longtime supporter of Southern as well. It was a significant donor that helped make the Beimdiek Recreation Center possible. This progressive facility combines wellness and recreation facilities into one location for the convenience of the students to make their lives better. Freeman also supports the nursing department, scholarships and the athletics department.

Some of Freeman's donations have been in the public eye and others have been made quietly because the administration understood the need and stepped forward to help. When the athletic training department needed supplies, the organization stepped in. When short staffed, Freeman helped with an additional trainer. There was no fanfare, just help.

It's thanks to donors like Ruth Kolpin Rubison and Freeman Health System that Southern is able to help students achieve an education. Thank you to them and to all who support our students.

— JoAnn Graffam, '87, Vice President  
for Development and Executive Director,  
Missouri Southern Foundation

## Spirit of Philanthropy Awards

### Individual

*Ruth Kolpin Rubison is a broadcast pioneer and philanthropist from Carthage, Missouri.*



### Corporate

*Paula Baker, CEO, accepted the award on behalf of Joplin's Freeman Health System.*





Greetings, alumni and friends!

What a fun-filled issue this has been as we looked at so many memories over the years at Missouri Southern. The research staff members have done has been a great way for them to connect with the legacy that began with Joplin Junior College.

We all knew *Crossroads* evolved from a yearbook, so it was exciting to see this issue feature interviews with a former *Crossroads* king and queen. This insight of alums from the 1950s helps us all understand the significance of the college and then university, not only to those who attended here, but also the connection we share with the Joplin community.

As an alum of *The Chart*, the inaugural Hall of Fame induction and reunion was a great time to reconnect with fellow classmates. Many alumni who attended the dinner were also former *Crossroads* staff members, so the connections run deep in the communication department as a place to train outstanding journalists for future careers.

In the spring issue, look for more stories of the past as we seek out alums and others who spent time at Missouri Southern or Joplin Junior College. No matter the name, this institution preserves the past for future generations.

Warm regards,

*Rhonda Clark '00*

Rhonda Clark, '00,  
**crossroads** Editor,  
Assistant Professor, Communication



## crossroads

### Fall 2012 Staff Members



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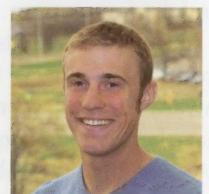
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# Alums promote peace after studies

Some 30 MSSU graduates have enriched their own lives and made a difference in the lives of others while serving in the Peace Corps. The agency was founded by President John F. Kennedy on March 1, 1961.



Caitlan and Luke Smith, December 2011 grads, arrived in Rwanda in September to begin a two-year assignment teaching English

in a public school of 900 students (about 200 of their students are orphans).

"We thought it was quite fitting seeing we came from the most southwest corner of Missouri to that of Rwanda," Caitlan wrote in her blog. "We are only about 20 km (yes I'm already functioning in the metric system) from a really large town of 75,000 people that contains all amenities we'll need without having to make the 6.5-hour bus ride to Kigali (the capital). We are next to a small forest and the larger national forest (full of monkeys and baboons!)."

The Peace Corps has provided instruction to the Smiths and the 32 other trainees in Rwanda on the local language (Kinyarwanda), health, safety and security, and cross-cultural values. They also learned how to light a charcoal and wood stove and to cook a Rwandan meal. Caitlan

celebrated her 24th birthday on September 17, and Luke surprised her with a Hershey's Symphony bar that she rationed for a few days since chocolate is extremely scarce.

MSSU has had many recent graduates join the Peace Corps as a result of the university's international mission and the international atmosphere on campus. Kyle Kastler, '09, returned in June from a 27-month stint as an English education volunteer in the Kyrgyz Republic.

"I also had the opportunity to organize and participate in health promotion seminars targeted at rural youth to prevent the spread of HIV," Kastler said. "I worked in conjunction with other Peace Corps volunteers and also had the opportunity to work with international development agencies including USAID, the UN, Save the Children, GIZ and the Alliance Francaise.

"One of the best parts about being a Peace Corps volunteer is that the entire organization is focused on grassroots development, really working with local people at the community level and addressing community specific needs in a way that builds the capacity of local people. I was lucky enough to work alongside inspiring local people who wanted to improve themselves and their communities."

— Dr. Chad Stebbins, '82, Director, Institute of International Studies

*Strict privacy regulations prevent the Peace Corps from releasing volunteer names without written permission; 11 other MSSU graduates responded to our request:*

**Alicia and Derek Johnson, '08 and '09**, were kindergarten through ninth grade Teaching English as a Foreign Language and youth development volunteers, respectively, in Azerbaijan from October 2009 to June 2010. Their region flooded, and they chose to come home rather than be relocated. **Lynn Sweet, '91**, was a business development volunteer in Suriname, 2008-09. **Teresa Smith, '05**, was a health extension volunteer in Uganda, 2006-08. **Erin Patton, '03**, the MSSU assistant bookstore manager, was a health extension volunteer in Mozambique, 2005-07. **Jennifer Griest, '03**, was a secondary education science teaching volunteer in Malawi, 2004-06. **Joseph Ferguson, '03**, was a primary education teacher trainer and community development volunteer in Bulgaria, 2004-06. **Kate Raum, '02**, was a community development volunteer with a focus on health education in Tanzania, 2005-07. **Tegan Whited, '98**, was a university English teaching volunteer in Kyrgyzstan, 1999. **David Evans, '73**, was a YMCA/education volunteer in the Philippines, 1975-77. **Sallie Haynes Miller** was an education volunteer in the Dominican Republic, 1968-70.



Kyle Kastler, '09, (center) stands with four of his high school English students at their school in the Archa Beshik settlement in the Kyrgyz Republic.



Caitlan and Luke Smith, 2011 alumni, began a two-year commitment in September in Rwanda. — Submitted photos



## Grant provides access to skills website

The school of education is pleased to announce the receipt of a grant providing access to the SimpleK12 Learning Community. SimpleK12 is a website, which educators around the world use for professional development and collaboration.



This portal delivers webinars and thousands of hours of Web-based professional development related to effective use of technology in the classroom as well as teaching-learning strategies.

The good news is this grant allows free access for MSSU faculty, staff, school of education majors, and alumni. This also means that any MSSU kinesiology, teacher education or psychology graduate, working in the field, may receive this benefit at no charge. MSSU's free membership is valid through August 31, 2013.

Dr. Sheri Beeler, associate professor of kinesiology, and Dr. Al Cade, interim dean of the school of education, were instrumental in obtaining this grant. This online portal for teachers contains well over 1,000 hours of self-paced training on technology, teaching and learning; more than 300 recorded webinars (and 500 more live ones in 2012) on technology subjects for teachers and administrators, and access to thousands of global teachers with whom to collaborate and share teaching resources. The resources are not just technological but also pedagogical. Teaching-learning strategies for differentiated instruction, assessment and response to intervention are current topics in the field of education. These topics and more are addressed via this website.

Our students love it. For example, Amanda Fronzaglia, senior elementary education major said, "I like this site because I can find so many resources here. This is my one-stop shopping place."

The fee for subscribing or belonging to the SimpleK12 Learning Community is \$297 per person, which is waived by MSSU's participation in the grant. The school of education has

approximately 1,000 majors, including more than 650 in teacher education. All of these students have free access to the site for this academic year. Teacher education majors can use this site as they prepare lessons and learning activities. Graduates of the school of education, including classroom teachers and administrators, can use these resources — even if they graduated from MSSU decades ago.

— Dr. Deborah Pulliam,  
Interim Department Head, Teacher Education

### SimpleK12 website topics

- Administrator Resources
- Assessment & Review
- Blended Learning
- Blogging
- Bundles & Toolkits
- Classroom Management
- Common Core
- Communication & Collaboration
- Desktop Applications
- Differentiated Learning
- Digital Media
- Digital Storytelling
- Google
- Interactive Whiteboards
- Internet Searches
- iPads & Mobile Learning
- Learning Theories & Strategies
- NETS-T
- Organizational & Time-saving Tools
- Personal Enrichment
- Podcasting
- Response to Intervention (RTI)
- Social Media
- Special Education
- Student Safety & Digital Citizenship
- Tech Integration Basics
- Tools for Student Projects
- Virtual Learning
- Web Tool Overviews
- Website Creation
- Wikis

### SimpleK12 Learning Community

► You can enroll for access to the website by going to <http://www.mssu.edu/academics/education> and click on the SimpleK12 link or scan this QR Code.





# IET students put theory into practice

Industrial Engineering Technology students are used to applying what they learn in the classroom to real-life situations. Last semester was no different. As part of the Six Sigma Methodology class, each student



did a project at a community organization or business. Since industrial engineering technology is about determining the most effective and efficient way to create

a product or provide a service, most projects involved either increasing productivity and quality, or reducing cost through management of people, methods, and technology.

Mark Capps was one of five students in the Six Sigma class doing his project at Ducommun Labarge, a Joplin company. Mark analyzed the way parts are handled and moved from the stock room to production. He had to figure out how to improve that process. Mark found a solution that satisfied both the stockroom and production employees, resulting in savings of \$37,310 annually. The beauty about his solution, besides saving the company money, was that it was a green solution. The new process incorporated reusable containers instead of throwaway bags.

Students have many advantages when doing their projects for organizations. They gain real-life experience and connect the dots between theory and practice. They put their hard skills into action but also experience soft skills, like communicating with company employees or working on a team of people from different functional areas.

"The most important part of my learning experience was to always listen to the experts, listening to the people who deal with the job every day," Mark Capps said. "They understand their job better than anybody. They know what improvements work best for them."

Most of the students taking the Six Sigma Methodology course are Industrial Engineering Technology majors, but not all of them. Shaun Mayhue did his project about understanding the needs and desires of patients at Western Missouri Medical Center in Warrensburg, Missouri.

Shaun measured satisfaction levels of patients and worked on gaining a higher level of customer service. This general studies major who is pursuing a minor in process improvement in the engineering technology department is an example of a student who is pursuing the minor in because he has a passion for process improvement and because he understands it will give him

## SENIOR PROJECTS

Improve efficiencies of a certain production line for Ducommun Labarge: Jake Dahlke, IET major, Senior

Increase the efficiency of operators and increase the utilization of sheet metal raw materials for Reyco Granning, Mt. Vernon: Zachory Smith, IET major, Senior

Increase bag room efficiency for Twin Hills Golf and Country Club: Danny Woodruff, IET major, Senior

Decrease defects by 50 percent for Boron Products Ceradyne, Quapaw: Robert Watson, IET major, Senior

Analyzing call center performance for NCO Group, Joplin: Eric Hutchinson, General Studies Major with emphasis in IET, Senior

Streamline traffic department workload for Zimmer Radio Group, Joplin: Ric Ogle, IET major, Senior

Characterize and optimize catalyst behavior for polyurethane potting application for MCPU Polymer Engineering LLC, Pittsburg: Tom Harter, Six Sigma Black Belt candidate, Industry Professional

Reduce production time and improve quality on hydraulic cylinders for Danco Machine, Joplin: Tim Sharon, IET major, Senior

Increase quality of microwave popcorn bags for Gilster-Mary Lee Corporation: Juan Hurtado, IET major, Senior

Reduce transportation of raw material through the manufacturing facility for Ducommun Labarge: Greg Johnson, IET major, Senior

a competitive edge when he looks for employment.

Industrial engineering technology students have many opportunities to apply what they learn in their coursework to actual hands-on projects. It is one of the program strengths that employers appreciate. Some projects are conducted in a laboratory setting; some are conducted in the work place.

"As an engineering manager in the manufacturing sector, I am always on the lookout for top talent," said Dave Strawn, engineering manager at Ducommun LaBarge Technologies. "Two skills I believe higher level education should prepare their students to perform are to contribute immediately and to apply themselves in hands-on situations."

— Elke Howe, Associate Professor,  
Engineering Technology



## Expanded programs benefit region

The alumni of the Robert W. Plaster School of Business have been working hard this year to be more sensitive to the needs of our market.



It began last January when Dr. Beverly Block and Dr. Chris Moos began working with Crowder College to begin offering the final two years of the Bachelor's in Management on the Crowder campus in Neosho. After their hard work, the Higher Learning Commission recently approved the program, which will begin in January 2013.

An additional effort for becoming more responsive to the needs of the regional market began with a survey of all current business students, and it was discovered that there is demand for early morning, and evening classes on the main campus in Joplin, in addition to our extensive online offerings.

These evening classes began in the spring 2012 semester, and they were further expanded into more offerings in the fall. These classes are well attended, and we hope to offer a complete evening degree program by fall 2013. In January 2013, we will begin offering classes at 7 a.m. to further assist our many working students.

At present, approximately 75 percent of all business students have jobs and are working more than 23 hours per week.

Missouri Southern students, like most attending state regional universities in a metropolitan setting, have very complex lives, including work, family and many other obligations. Our job is to help them by offering a portfolio of learning options to better fit their schedules. In spite of this hard work, or perhaps because of it, Plaster students continue to excel.

Students have won national championships in PBL, in C-DECCA, and many graduating seniors have scored in the top 20 percent of all business students nationwide in the major field tests taken by tens of thousands of students annually graduating in business. The best and brightest indeed go to Southern.

An additional effort under way is to establish a Master's of Accountancy degree by Fall 2014. The initial market evaluation and projections are currently being completed by Dr. David Smith, head of the department of accounting, economics and finance. When this program is approved and established, it will be the first independently offered Master's program by Southern.

This will be an important step in moving Missouri Southern up market, and this program will become an important symbol of confirmation that MSSU is indeed a university of significance.

— Dr. John Groesbeck, Dean,  
Robert. W. Plaster School of Business



Dr. Alan Marble, Crowder College president (left); Dr. Bruce Speck, MSSU president; and Dr. Pat Lipira, MSSU vice president for academic affairs, listen as Dr. Glenn Coltharp, vice president for academic affairs at Crowder, addresses the audience as Missouri Southern partners with the community college to offer completion of a Bachelor of Management degree at the Neosho, Missouri, campus. — Photo by Curtis Almeter, '13



# Department makes beautiful music

The Missouri Southern Music Department continues to be a vital part of the educational environment. Among many recent developments is the introduction



of our new baccalaureate degree in music industry. It represents an exciting new partnership with the Robert W. Plaster School of Business and promises to meet a growing demand

for versatile and (electronically) connected professionals in fields like music retail and arts management.

We are also pleased to announce a new member of the full-time music faculty. Dr. Ron Montgomery joined the faculty as wind band conductor and instructor of trumpet. Dr. Montgomery brings a wealth of public school and collegiate experience to this position.

The "Music Department Gala" launched on October 4, 2012, as part of Homecoming and 75th Anniversary activities. Featured on the program were Southern Exposure, the Southern Jazz Orchestra, Dr. Bruce Speck (guest vocalist), and the Royal Thunder Drum Line. This newly rebranded event (formerly the "Presidential Gala") continues to raise funds to support music scholarships issued by the MSSU Foundation.

The year has been a busy one for the MSSU music faculty. Brian Fronzaglia led the aforementioned Royal Thunder Drum Line in numerous performances, including the 2012 Major League All-Star game in Kansas City. Dr. Stacey Barelos released her second solo piano CD, "Henry Cowell: Piano Music." Dr. Cheryl Cifelli performed as principal clarinet with the Keystone Winds at the 50th Anniversary of the American Harp Society in New York. Debra Snodgrass, Dr. Cifelli, Dr. Barelos and MSSU music alum Lauren Alumbaugh participated in a symposium on music by women composers in St. Louis. Dr. Susan Smith and voice instructor Larry Stotsbery performed with the Southern Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Dr. Kexi Liu. And, Dr. David Sharlow took the MSSU

Chamber Singers on a much acclaimed concert tour in the Kansas City area.

Among the recurring successes in the department are the full array of performances, both on campus and off.

The individual successes of our students are featured in a variety of special events, like junior and senior recitals and the annual OnStage, which showcases the talents of our voice students. Dr. Susan Smith directs this annual favorite. Many of the same students featured in OnStage also participated in the successful run of the spring semester musical, Kander and Ebb's "Chicago." This collaboration between the theatre and music departments was, arguably, the "hit" of the performance season.

— Dr. Jeffrey Macomber, Associate Professor of Music and Head of the Music Department

## Music Department Performance Teams

- ▶ Lion Pride Marching Band, MSSU Basketball Pep Band, and Percussion Ensemble, Brian Fronzaglia, director.
- ▶ Concert Chorale and Chamber Singers, Dr. David Sharlow, director.
- ▶ Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band, Dr. Ron Montgomery, director.
- ▶ Southern Symphony Orchestra, Dr. Kexi Liu, conductor.
- ▶ MSSU Choral Society (enthusiastic adult learners), Dr. Al Carnine, director.
- ▶ Southern Exposure, Matt Holt, director.
- ▶ MSSU Jazz Combos, Dr. Philip C. Wise, director.
- ▶ Southern Jazz Orchestra, Dr. Jeff Macomber, director.
- ▶ Chamber Winds, Dr. Cheryl Cifelli, director.
- ▶ Opera and Musical Theatre, Dr. Susan K. Smith, director.

*"The 'Music Department Gala' launched on October 4, 2012, as part of Homecoming ... continues to raise funds to support music scholarships issued by the MSSU Foundation."*



# Business minded

## New dean's experience helps inspire students to succeed.

**T**he new dean of the Robert W. Plaster School of Business brings a wide base of experience to the position, but at the same time, he is on familiar ground. Missouri Southern is Dr. John Groesbeck's third stop as dean of a business school.

Groesbeck believes Southern provides an integral role in higher education for southwest Missouri.

"Joplin is the regional hub for a number of smaller communities, and I would imagine that Missouri Southern pulls students in from those communities," Groesbeck said. "Many of them are first generation; many of them are looking for a way to improve their lives. That's why I got into higher education, is for exactly people like that, and that's why I am very much interested in being here."

For Groesbeck and his wife, Janette, connecting with Missouri came easy. Groesbeck's mother was born in Independence, and his grandmother was born in Buffalo. Janette's father lives in Pineville. The new dean said having family close by was an added incentive to applying for the position.

Groesbeck brings with him more than a decade of experience in regional economic modeling, so he has an understanding of the dynamic of this region.

One of the first orders of business when Groesbeck took over as dean on June 1 was to become acquainted with the SOBA Advisory Board to determine how best to address the needs of the school of business.

One immediate need that has been met since then has been the introduction of the student learning support center, an "in the building" resource center to increase student success. It provides a community of learners with peer mentoring and allows for on-the-spot answers to issues addressed in courses that may remain unclear to students.

"It's all a part of creating a higher level of engagement and a stronger learning environment," Groesbeck said.

Another area of advancement has been in the implementation of the first Undergraduate Research Fair, which gives students an opportunity to present work they are producing for their classes at a higher level in competition with others in their field.

### DR. JOHN GROESBECK

#### Professional

Dean, Robert W. Plaster School of Business, 2012-present; dean, Bill and Vieve Gore School of Business, Westminster College, Salt Lake City, 2007-12; dean, Eastern New Mexico University College of Business, Portales, 2006-07.

#### Education

Ph.D., economics, and Master's, economics/management, Utah State University; Bachelor's, political science, Boise State University.

#### Personal


Family: Wife, Janette; two children  
Hobbies: Motorcycles and guitar

"With the level of higher intimacy that we have and our smaller numbers, I would dare say that our better students, our best students, can compete anywhere with anyone," Groesbeck said.

When the day finally comes to retire, the thing Groesbeck would most like to have accomplished is summed up by an inscription he recalls from a tombstone he saw while he was in graduate school: "His was a life that enriched the life of others."

"If people can say that about me, then I will have accomplished something," he said.

— Robin Fjelstad, '15



*Dr. John Groesbeck, dean, discusses the future of the Robert W. Plaster School of Business. — Photo by Samantha Zoltanski, '14*



# Q&A:

Gratitude for a community's acceptance fuels this executive's commitment to pay-it-forward so those who are less fortunate may also achieve their dreams.

**Q:** Your work history is diverse. Which area of your experience did you find most fulfilling and why?

**A:** While I have found fulfillment in all of my career experiences, my work at State Farm was the most defining. I managed an African-American gifting portfolio (I identified like-minded non-profits and provided financial support) and was able to experience business at an extremely high level at a very early age. I even flew on the corporate jet at times. Moreover, I was able to invest in educational programs such as the National Urban League's "Achievement Matters" campaign. The campaign was designed to counter the anti-achievement culture that was pervasive in the urban core. We would identify students who made learning leaps throughout the year (C grades to A grades for example) and run full-page ads in their local newspapers touting their achievements — similar to athlete features following the big game.

**Q:** What led you to the position you now hold with Weber Shandwick?

**A:** I was an SVP at the Axis Agency, a wholly owned subsidiary of Weber's. After establishing a credible African-American marketing and communications practice, I was asked to expand our entertainment efforts.

**Q:** You have been involved with many community service groups, including the National Urban League, of which you co-founded the Young Professionals affiliate for the group. Why was this type of work important for you and do you feel others should become involved with their communities?

**A:** I grew up the beneficiary of community programs. It is natural for me to want to repay that communal generosity. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Our life begins to end the day we become silent about the things that matter." That is why I am driven to be an advocate for the less fortunate. Moreover, the adage, "to whom much is given" rings true. I would encourage everyone to be an active participant in his or her community's continued development.

**Q:** How did your education and experiences at Missouri Southern help prepare you for your career?

**A:** My education at Southern was not merely academic. I learned the importance of community. During holidays and summers when other students would go home, I stayed in Joplin (didn't really have anywhere to go). I worked at Brass Buckle in the mall. I delivered pizzas for Dominos. I worked at Wal-Mart on Range Line. Even though I didn't go "home," I always felt at home. I always had Christmas dinner. I always had Thanksgiving dinner. I always had somewhere to go after work during the summer. Joplin adopted me and treated me like one of its own. All of that support taught me to have faith in myself and faith in humanity. It taught me that traditional is not the only way to achievement. It taught me to be proud of my



*Kevin Hooks, '92, who earned a bachelor's in communication, shares how his small town, small-college education helps him succeed in the high-powered business world. — Submitted photo*

education and my "small" town roots. I have sat in boardrooms across the table from Ivy League educated, big city executives who brought the air of superiority with them into the room and left the room completely deflated after realizing at the head of the table sat a "country" boy from a small college in rural Missouri. Missouri Southern prepared me to not only sit at the table but to own the room!

**Q:** What advice do you have for others who would follow in your footsteps?

**A:** My advice is simple: Be proud! Proud of your education, proud of Joplin, and proud of Missouri Southern. The air of success is hard to breathe and Missouri Southern will train you to succeed at the highest altitude.

— Robin Fjelstad '15

*Kevin E. Hooks, '92, is the executive vice president of Weber Shandwick Worldwide. He and his wife, Sarah, and son, Kai Michael, live in Los Angeles, California.*



# First Edition

## The Chart celebrates its own with inaugural Hall of Fame.

When a small committee convened in the summer of 2012, conservative expectations placed the number of attendees at about 40 for the first *Chart* Hall of Fame induction and banquet.

That modest number grew to 88 by the time the event was held on October 6 at the Briarbrook Country Club in Carl Junction, Missouri.

Former and current staff members of *The Chart*, spanning six decades, came to witness the inaugural class inducted into *The Chart* Hall of Fame.

This was only the third reunion in the history of *The Chart*. The first was in 1988, in conjunction with Missouri Southern's 50-year anniversary. The second was in 1999, when *The Chart* celebrated its 60th anniversary.

The first Hall of Fame class included two living members and two members who were inducted posthumously.

The late Kenneth McCaleb, '41, (1920-2002) established *The Chart* in 1939 and graduated from Joplin Junior College in 1941. He and his wife, Margaret, established the McCaleb Initiative for Peace at MSSU in 1998 for the purpose of examining the causes of war and discussing in *The Chart* ways by which war can be prevented. Robert McCaleb, of Cleveland, Tennessee, accepted the honor on behalf of his father.

The late Cleetis Headlee (1911-2000), professor of English at Joplin Junior College, took the position as faculty adviser to *The Chart* in 1948. She did more than advise the newspaper; she founded the teaching of journalism at the college, and in doing so, she sought to instill in her students the ethics of professional journalism. She served as adviser for 19 years, although she continued as an English professor at Missouri Southern until retiring in 1976.

Richard Massa became adviser to *The*

*Chart* in 1972 and used the success of the newspaper as the seed to create the Department of Communications eight years later. Massa served as department head, a title he held until his retirement in 1999. He established a radio station and a television station and was also instrumental in developing the Institute of International Studies and served as its first director during his final three years at Southern.

Jack Brannan, '54, began his career in journalism in 1952 as a news reporter for the *Joplin Globe* and at Joplin Junior College, where in his sophomore year, 1953-54, he was sports editor of *The Chart*. During 20 years as a United Press International newsman, editor and management executive, Brannan was in Oklahoma City, then managed the Kansas City bureau and went from there to Washington, D.C., as a White House correspondent during the early months of the Johnson administration. Brannan's next assignment was to UPI's South American division headquarters in Buenos Aires, Argentina, beginning a four-year tour as a foreign correspondent that led him subsequently to Caracas as general manager and chief correspondent for Venezuela and the UPI's Caribbean division. In 1969, he became assistant foreign news editor at UPI's world headquarters in New York.

*Chart* alumni came to the reunion from all over the country. The prize for coming the farthest went to Kelly Dengel, '01, (Liberty Lake, Washington), who traveled 1,765 miles; Ryan Bronson, '97, (Taylorsville, Utah) journeyed 1,227 miles; and Jeff Billington, '00, (Rockville, Maryland) came 1,136 miles.

The next *Chart* reunion and Hall of Fame induction will be in 2017, in conjunction with Southern's homecoming.

— Dr. Chad Stebbins, '82, Director,  
Institute of International Studies,  
Former Editor-in-Chief and Adviser to *The Chart*



## The Chart Hall of Fame

### Purpose:

The *Chart* Hall of Fame was established in 2012 to pay tribute and give deserved recognition to former students and advisers of the student newspaper who have made distinctive, unique or exceptional contributions to the newspaper and/or the profession.

### Criteria for nomination of inductees:

The nominee must have attended Joplin Junior College or Missouri Southern State University, or been employed by Joplin Junior College or Missouri Southern State University.

The nominee must have worked a minimum of one year on *The Chart* staff and held a position above staff writer or staff member.

At least 10 years must have passed since the nominee last worked for *The Chart*.

### Process:

A new Hall of Fame class will be inducted every five years, beginning in 2012.

Candidates may be nominated by anyone. A *Chart* Hall of Fame committee will review all the nominations and make the selections.

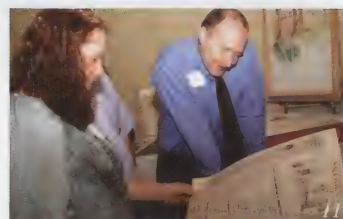
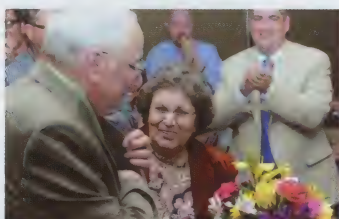


# Photo slideshow



## The Chart Hall of Fame

From left, Kenneth McCaleb, '41, founder of *The Chart*; Cleetis Headlee, adviser from 1948-67; Jack Brannan, '54, alum and former reporter for the UPI; and Richard Massa, adviser from 1972-84 and founder of the MSSU Department of Communications.



1. Chris Clark, '91, presents the award to Jack Brannan, '54. 2. The Chart alumni who attended from the 1970s: Steve Smith, '77; Donna Lonchar, '75; and Keith Mackey, '74. 3. Rick, '98, and Elizabeth, '98, Rogers, and Jake Griffin, '98, share a laugh at the banquet. 4. Jeff Billington, '00, presents the award to Robert McCaleb, who accepted the honor for his father. 5. Teresa Massa reacts after her husband, Richard Massa, presents her with flowers for her support throughout their 41 years of marriage. 6. Vince Sweeney, '02; Kelly Dengel, '01; Noppadol Paothong, '01; and Chris Roberts, '01, catch up at the dinner. 7. A. John Baker, '84, presents the award to Richard Massa. 8. T. Rob Brown, '93, snaps shots of the attendees. 9. Lee Elliff Pound, '86, and Auriel Brown, '06. 10. Chart alumni from the 2000s gather for a photo: Josh Boley, Willie Brown, Auriel Brown, '06; Jordan Larimore; Nathan Mills; Nate Billings, '06; Michael Woodruff, '12; Brennan Stebbins, '11; Rebecca Haines, '07; T.R. Hanrahan; Nathan Carter, '11; and Luke Taylor, '11. 11. Debbie Solomon Madison, '01; and Dan Wiskzon, '96, look through a collection of issues of *The Chart*. 12. Alumni from the 1990s staffs of *The Chart* assemble for a final shot. — Photos by Rhonda Clark, '00; Willie Brown, '14; and Josh Boley, '14





# Ready to Roar

MISSOURI  
SOUTHERN







Above, Homecoming royalty, Ruth Stamper, junior, and Trenten Henderson, senior, wave to the crowd as they ride through campus during the October 6 parade.  
Below left, cheerleader Sami Nielsen supports the Lions during the parade.  
Below right, Melodee Colbert-Kean, '99, mayor of Joplin, Missouri, throws candy.



Facing page, Roary, a new face to Missouri Southern, makes his way around campus during the Homecoming events.  
Below, Homecoming royalty return to help with the 75th Anniversary float. Those on the float include Samantha Evans, Jeremy Thomas, '12; Deb Gipson, '84; Daron Harris; and Emma Jo Walker, '91. — Photos by Mike Gullett



## Homecoming events shine for anniversary

This year's theme of "Celebrating 75 years of Lion Pride" could not have been a better backdrop for the week-long events.

Homecoming 2012 was a terrific week, filled with events to celebrate our 75th year. Missouri Southern student events included a "Star on Your Own Magazine Cover," Casino Night, a performance of 61Syx Teknique Break Dance Crew, an outdoor movie night, an old-time photo booth, and students even got to stuff their own lion.

This year, the Alumni Association chose three outstanding alumni to represent a graduate from the first, second and third 25 years. Those selected were Carol Parker, '54; Mike Moore, '87; and Bryan Vowels, '92.

Carol Parker has been the hostess for "The Carol Parker Show" since 1973 on local station KSN-TV. The public affairs program features guests, celebrities, cooking, and on-location events in the Four-State area. She has recorded many shows in the Branson area with stars and also at Silver Dollar City. Silver Dollar City took her to New York City several times to record the Radio City Rockettes Christmas Spectacular. While there, she was in segments of NBC's "Today Show" with Al Roker and Matt Lauer.

She has published three cookbooks featuring chefs, friends and celebrities and their recipes. She enjoys cooking shows on "Tasty Tuesday" and "Living Well" at 4 p.m. weekdays on KSN. She has done business showcases and many commercials.

Mike Moore is executive vice president and president of Walmart Central, leading the central geographic business unit of Walmart U.S. He is responsible for operations, real estate, supply chains, and merchandising in the Mississippi River Delta, Central Plains, Texas and Midwest divisions.

Mike began his Walmart career in 1988 as an assistant manager in Carthage, Missouri. Since that time, he has held many



successful leadership roles as co-manager, store manager and district manager in Oklahoma and Nebraska. He led south Texas and south Florida as regional vice president and in 2004 was promoted to senior vice president of operations for the west division. He received the Sam M. Walton Entrepreneur of the Year award in 2005. Mike serves on the executive committee and chairman of Students in Free Enterprise National Advisory Board.

Bryan Vowels, '92, worked in the banking industry for 10 years after graduation, working as a National Bank Examiner for the U.S. Treasury Department and serving as senior vice president for The Bank of Fayetteville in Fayetteville, Arkansas. While working in the banking industry, Bryan earned his chartered financial analyst designation and received his MBA from the University of Arkansas. At the University of Arkansas, he received the Sam Walton Achievement in Excellence in Leadership Award. He also holds the certified financial planner certification.

In 2001, Bryan moved back to Joplin with his family and changed careers to the investment planning industry. He joined A.G. Edwards, a predecessor firm of Wells Fargo Advisors LLC, and in 2002 became branch manager of the Joplin office. Bryan has four members on his team including two Southern graduates, and leads 16 advisers and staff. His team focuses on personalized wealth management services for individual clients, retirement plans and investment management for nonprofits and foundations, with clients located around the country. In 2012, Bryan was named by "On Wall Street" magazine as one of the top 100 Branch Managers in the country. While at Southern, Bryan served as president of the Student Senate and received the Outstanding Graduate Award.

As a special part of Homecoming this year, these outstanding alumni were guest lecturers in their respective fields: Carol spoke to a public relations class, while Mike and Bryan shared the stage in a guest lecture class to business students and then met with a smaller group of seniors in a question-and-answer format.

Southern is proud to have welcomed back these three outstanding alumni to represent our past 75 years.

— Lee Elliff Pound, '86



*Above, a young Lions fan shows his support with green and gold face paint during the Homecoming festivities.*

*Below left, Southern band members Christopher Phillips (left), freshman music major, and Thomas Foster, sophomore music major, perform for the Homecoming crowd.*



*Above right, Trever Montgomery, senior biology major, shows his true colors for the Lions.*

*Below left, Billy Green, MSSU custodian, prepares a tasty tailgate meal for his fan crew.*

*Below right, Barbara, '69, and Doug Bevins dance at the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center at a reception the night before the parade and game.*







*Above, judges from the local media peer through their patriotic shades as the parade entries flow across Southern's campus. From left, Cheryl Finley, Joplin Globe; Lindsay Henry, KOAM; and Drew Moore, KODE.*

*Below, junior running back Travis Hurd carries the ball down the field against South Dakota School of Mines & Technology. The Lions won, 47-20.*



*Below, from left, MSSU President Bruce Speck, Outstanding Alumni Bryan Vowels, '92; Carol Parker, '54; and Mike Moore, '87; and Lion-Hearted recipient Brad Belk pause for a photo after the Alumni Association Brunch on October 6 before they rode in the Homecoming parade and were recognized at halftime of the football game.*



## 2012 LION-HEARTED

Joplin Museum Complex Executive Director Brad Belk has made it his mission to create greater public awareness on the importance of local history. As a practicing public historian he has worked in various capacities as an author, educator, archivist, historian, exhibit designer, conservator, tour guide, historian film script writer, director and film producer.

Belk has been associated with the Joplin Museum Complex for 25 years. He is a 1978 graduate of the University of Missouri.

He serves on the MSSU Alumni Board of Directors. Belk recently wrote the script and directed a 30-minute video covering the history of Missouri Southern and assisted with the historical restoration of the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center. He is in the production stages of writing the 75th Anniversary book of Southern.

Belk has authored five books, co-authored two and has written newspaper articles, brochures, booklets and historical site pamphlets. He has written, co-produced, directed and/or appeared in 13 historical videos.

Belk has collaborated with the design and planning of several offsite permanent exhibits. He has given thousands of historical tours, lectures and presentations. Through the years he, his staff and volunteers have renovated many of the exhibit areas, including the museum's mineral wing. During his tenure at the museum, 10 major collections containing more than 100,000 artifacts have been acquired.

As a public servant, he has served on the Missouri History Speakers' Bureau, been co-chairman of the city of Joplin's 125th Celebration, and been a board member of the Route 66 Association of Missouri, Missouri Alliance for Historic Preservation, and Joplin Elk's Elkland Advisory Committee.

Belk received the Missouri Governor's 2006 Missouri Humanities Award for his "special contribution to a community's understanding of its heritage" as well as preserving the history of southwest Missouri.





Back from left, Dr. Tom Flood, Don Miller, '54; Dr. Merrell Jenkins, '55; and front from left, Patty (Gray) Miller, '54; and Ceci (Veatch) Fritz, '54, look through an old Crossroads yearbook at the Sitting Wall on the MSSU Oval. — Photo by Debrah Trout, '13



# Looking Back at the Past

An administrator and alumni  
remember the good times  
at Joplin Junior College.



Patty Gray sat in her classroom and smiled as her favorite professor, Ada Coffey, with her pencils sticking out of her white hair, chose one of the big football players to be Mark Antony in their reading of Julius Caesar. Sixty years later, Patty (Gray) Miller, '54, of Joplin, can still quote poems and Shakespeare from that English class, thanks to one of the exceptional instructors at Joplin Junior College.

"I loved every minute of the Joplin Junior College years," Miller said. "We had the most wonderful faculty. Mr. (Harry) Gockel seemed gruff, but he was really a pussycat. I always thought math was my weakest subject but Mrs. (Lela) Smith changed all that. It seemed that the faculty really liked young people."

Established in 1937 as Joplin Junior College, Missouri Southern State University is celebrating its 75th year of providing quality education to not only Joplin but also a global community.

The junior college was originally located

on the southeast corner of Fourth Street and Byers Avenue in downtown Joplin.

Dr. Tom Flood of Joplin may be the oldest remaining faculty member of Joplin Junior College, serving as dean from 1949-54. Flood served in Patton's army in World War II then completed his doctorate in education at Columbia University in New York City before coming to Joplin Junior College.

Flood took a personal interest in his students. He recalled one young man who struggled in his first year at the junior college, then went into the military service.

"When he returned to college after his service, he was an honors student," Flood said. "So one day, I asked him what made the difference, and the student replied, 'I know what I'm here for now.' He found out that he needed an education."

Flood said the economy and World War II and the Korean War had adverse effects on both students and educational institutions during that era, and Joplin Junior College was one of only two junior colleges

in Missouri that survived.

During Flood's service as dean, tuition was \$55, but many people could not afford college. Flood worked on a program called "Dollars for Scholars" to help students needing financial assistance.

In spite of losing their home in the May 2011 tornado, Flood and his wife still maintain a general academic scholarship at Missouri Southern.

"The quality of education at the junior college back then was great. We had an excellent faculty," Flood said. "The head of the University of Missouri School of Mines came down and looked over our school and I remember him saying, 'If you say I said this, I'll say I didn't, but I'll tell you this, your two-year students are better prepared to come to school at Rolla than the kids who come to Rolla.'"

As dean, Flood attended all the activities, including sporting events and dances.

"The kids were the salt of the earth," Flood said. "Kids to me are so hilarious and





interesting. Young people of this generation will imagine things I could never have imagined."

Robert Cox of Joplin had one thing on his mind during his two years at Joplin Junior College, 1950-51: sports. Cox played football, basketball and ran track, lettering in all three each year, but admits he struggled at first with keeping his grades up as required by the athletic department.

"Joplin Junior College woke me up to the fact that it wasn't like high school. The instructors were very good but strict," Cox said. "They didn't just hand out grades; you had to earn them. I found out the hard way."

Cox and his teammates traveled to their games the hard way, too.

"Nobody had their own car back then. We walked to Junge Stadium for football practice, and we walked to the downtown YMCA for basketball games," Cox said. "But for dates, one of the guys would borrow a family car, and we would double date and maybe go out to Keller's Barbecue on West Seventh."

Cox continued his education at Kansas State Teachers College (now Pittsburg State University) and Kansas University, then spent his entire career as a teacher, coach and principal.

Dr. Merrell Junkins of Joplin attended Joplin Junior College from 1953-55, then returned several years later as a counselor and eventually a psychology professor.

"At the time I was a student there, Joplin Junior College was a good preparation for going on to a bigger institution," Junkins said. "Then when I first went to

work there, there were only 30 faculty members, and because of that, everybody knew everybody pretty well and even did some socializing."

Junkins recalls teaching in his psychology class when news came over the loud speaker that President Kennedy had been shot. He can't recall if the college had a television set at the time, but the news arrived by radio.

"I ran to the office and they told me President Kennedy had been shot," Junkins said. "I felt horrid about the whole thing — it was just such a surprise."

Junkins also remembers the community support for the college's move to its current location.

"They started collecting money to buy that farm, and when they started, I told my wife they were crazier than loons, that they would never collect that much money, and then they had it in two weeks," Junkins said.

He acknowledges that computers and Internet have dramatically changed the college education experience.

"I prefer the interaction, being among the students, and you just don't get that," Junkins said.

"As a teacher, what bothers me about doing school work with the Internet is that I don't know who's doing it. I'm sure most students are honest and everybody does their own work, but there will be a few that don't."

By all accounts, Joplin Junior College was fortunate to have some talented instructors, and the music department was no exception.

Ceci (Veatch) Fritz, '54, of Joplin, was a piano major. She played for soloists and the choir and got some good experience writing manuscript music for Merrill Ellis in the music department.

"I think he was a teacher out of necessity, but he really was a composer and a lot of his music had been published," Fritz said.

Fritz recalled the psychology instructor Dr. Lloyd Dryer, who was also a piano player.

"His office was on the second-floor balcony of the auditorium, so he always had to walk down the hallway right through the auditorium where I was practicing piano, as we would get together every once in a while and go over jazz music, which he played back when he was in school," Fritz said. "He was very supportive."

"Bob Heater taught many of the classes that I had to take in the arts curriculum. I was never in a play, but I worked backstage."

Miller and Fritz both mentioned the camaraderie that enhanced the college experience.

"My senior year at Webb City High School I thought was one of the best years of my life, but then I went on to the junior college, and those were two of the greatest years," Fritz said. "We had so much fun and a great group of friends."

Life at Joplin Junior College wasn't just about meeting at the library and studying.

"I didn't date anybody particular in college, and it was like that — we'd just go out in groups and have a great time," Fritz said. "There were a few couples,





but most of us just ran around with each other."

One of Miller's double dates included a road trip that was experienced by hundreds of local teens and college students for decades before Kansas raised the legal drinking age.

"I had heard a lot about the Green Parrot (a bar) in Galena, and I remember how disappointed I was the first time I saw the place, but we had fun there," Miller said. "I was teaching dance lessons at the time, and I was worried sick that I would run into the parents of one of my dance students there."

The late Nancy Forcum was one of Fritz's good friends at Joplin Junior College.

"When they tore that building at Fourth and Byers down, Nancy went there and tried to take a brick. The workers told her she could not take a brick because all the bricks were going to be sold," Fritz said. "They asked her why in the world she wanted an old brick from the old building and she said, 'Because I spent two of the happiest years of my life in that building,' so they gave her a broken brick."

— Annie Clarkson, '16

*Then and now photos above from left: Patty (Gray) Miller, '54; Dr. Tom Flood; 1954 Crossroads king and queen, Patty and Don, '54, Miller; Dr. Merrell Junkins, '55; and Ceci (Veatch) Fritz, '54. Photo at right, Patty Miller and Fritz hang out at in 1953 at the Sitting Wall at Joplin Junior College in downtown Joplin, Missouri.*

## A place to hang out

As the saying goes, "If these walls could talk ..." then the "Sitting Wall" on Missouri Southern's campus could provide some intimate details of the lives of students who attended Joplin Junior College at its original downtown location at Fourth Street and Byers Avenue. Sixteen years ago, Leon Bormaster, '42, of Fort Smith, Arkansas, had the idea of rebuilding the sitting wall on the current campus. A group of alumni, led by Barbara (Bell) Ray, '42, brought the Carthage stone that served as a gathering place for JJC students to its new home on the oval between Hearn Hall and Billingsly Student Center. Contributions to fund the project were raised by the 1941-45 "war years" classes. When the old college building was torn down, realtor Mike Carey initially purchased the stone for his own use, but donated it to Southern when he heard of the reconstruction project. A dedication ceremony was held on the oval at the 1996 Homecoming. A bronze plaque at the end of the wall honors the 24 JJC students killed in World War II.

In the tradition of other famous walls, Bormaster has a piece of the sitting wall on a plaque at his home, decorated with green and gold ribbons.

"We used to study out there," Bormaster said, "but I didn't really study that hard."

JJC alumni Patty (Gray) Miller, '54, and Ceci (Veatch) Fritz, '54, were able to pick up their studies on the sitting wall right where they left off almost 60 years ago, with a little help from their *Crossroads* yearbooks.

— Annie Clarkson, '16





A PRIDE OF



# Freeborn Lions

With three degrees, and two more in the works, this family continues a tradition of education excellence.



Kim Baker, '82, (left), Ericka Freeborn and JoAnn Freeborn, '87, visit the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center on May 11, 2012. — Photo by Samantha Zoltanski, '14



The brick is inscribed: "Freeborn Family, Three Generations," just one brick among many in the sun-filled courtyard at the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center. But most bricks do not begin to tell the story of a family's commitment to the pursuit of higher education.

Four Freeborn family members attended Missouri Southern State College, and two are attending Missouri Southern State University. All agree their time at Southern has been instrumental in making their lives successful.

A lack of support services available in the late 1970s, when her family was providing care for elderly parents who were terminally ill, defined the path of education for the family matriarch, JoAnn Freeborn, '87.

"I began to feel very strongly that better information, more effective communications would improve the quality of life for families facing caregiving issues such as we did," JoAnn Freeborn said. "So in 1983, when I began my college journey, I declared communications as my major. When our youngest son, Rick, graduated from high school and was preparing to enter Southern, I asked him how he would feel if I enrolled and attended with him ... After agreeing to certain conditions, we began our college journey together."

Rick Freeborn started at Southern that fall, with the desire to be an educator.

"You can only imagine what it was like for an 18-year-old kid to be going to college with his mom. I had classes with her where she set the curve," he said.

Two courses JoAnn Freeborn found particularly useful were interpersonal communication and small group communication.

"On my first day of class in my first college course, human communication, I'll never forget my teacher Richard Massa, who was the head of the department and my adviser," she said. "He challenged each student to 'become your own toughest taskmaster.' It has stuck with me always."

JoAnn and Rick Freeborn weren't the first family members to attend Southern.

Julie (Freeborn) Maniar, '81, received her degree in sociology, the oldest of the three Freeborn children, and the first to attend Southern, beginning in 1977. That was the same year Southern became a state-assisted, four-year college and part of Missouri's higher education system.

Maniar worked in student employment

throughout her education and values the relationships that developed. Due to overcrowding, she lived in the men's residence hall with 23 other girls before the new women's hall was complete.

She was the recipient of the Spencer Bartlett Respect award her senior year at Southern and credits her adviser for helping her achieve the honor.

"I started as an English major ... my adviser Dr. (Raymond) Kellner (assistant professor of sociology) was very instrumental in helping me to get on track to being in a field I think I was more suited for," Maniar said. "That was a pretty big turning point for me."

As most Southern students can attest, weather can always be a problem in southwest Missouri.

"I remember a winter when we had returned from winter break, and we had gotten up to the dorm and settled back in, and there was a really bad winter storm, and so school was closed and nobody could get on the campus," Maniar said.

"We had Glen Dolence, who was the dean (of students), and Doug Carnahan. We had all the deans and everybody serving us dinner in the cafeteria because nobody could get in there to get food for us. They really cared about us a lot, and they were very personable ... it was a very cool experience to go to a school like that."

Kim (Freeborn) Keese Baker, '82, was a psychology major when she started classes in the fall of 1978.

"I loved going to school at Southern because it was a small school," Baker said. "You felt like you were part of a community. Your teachers knew who you were and worked with you on an individual level as well as classroom. You had good advisers that spent time with you choosing classes that would best suit your degree. On campus, living was great."

Baker married before she graduated from Southern and became the mother of three sons. In April 2012, she won re-election to the city council in Maryland Heights, Missouri. She has worked with those who have special needs and in the fields of rehabilitation and education.

"I think I am a people person and my degree in psychology prepared me well to

work in a number of different areas in the 'helping field,'" Baker said.

Rick Freeborn is a technology specialist for Joplin High School and an Apple/Macintosh certified technician for the district. His latest challenge was the implementation of the one-to-one program, which provided each student with a laptop computer after a major tornado hit Joplin on May 22, 2011.

The current generation of Freeborn Lions includes Rick Freeborn's daughter Ericka, senior, Spanish language major, and oldest son, Stevan, sophomore, premed.

"There was never any question growing up that we would attend college," Ericka Freeborn said. "Education's been really important to my family."

The family legacy will continue when Rick Freeborn's youngest graduates from Joplin High School in May 2013.

"He's had aspirations to go to a big Division I school, but I kind of feel he'll end up doing the same thing (we did)," Rick Freeborn said. "Southern has been a rock in this part of the country. A lot of people poo-poo it because it's small-town Joplin and it's a small-town university, but I think there's value in that."

Like her daughter, JoAnn Freeborn also received the Spencer Bartlett Respect Award her senior year at Southern. After graduation, she worked as a social worker for the Joplin Area Agency on Aging. By the time she retired in 1997, she was executive director of the organization.

While with the agency, she helped start "Visions Unlimited," a TV program focusing on senior issues that aired for 20 years on Southern's KGCS-TV.

Missouri Southern State College honored her as the 1998 recipient of the Annie Baxter Award for significant contributions to the role of women in government and politics. In 1999, she and her husband moved to Arizona, where she continues to be involved in education and issues for care of the aged.

"Missouri Southern provided an excellent liberal arts education for them to move on to higher education and to wonderfully successful careers," JoAnn Freeborn said about her family of Lions. "We all generally were extremely well served by our educations at Missouri Southern."

— Robin Fjelstad, '15





# Celebration time

## Events punctuate anniversary year.



Missouri Southern State University has grown dramatically since its beginnings, and this year is marked by activities to celebrate the 75th anniversary.

Southern was founded in 1937 as Joplin Junior College, with nine faculty members and 114 students. It later became Jasper County Junior College, then Missouri Southern College, followed by Missouri Southern State College. Today, Missouri Southern State University has 200 faculty members and 5,400 students. And since its inception, the university has granted degrees to more than 21,000 people.

To help commemorate all those who came together and worked to make the dream of a higher education institution a reality, and to honor all those whose lives have been touched by the university, events are taking place throughout the year.

The year started with Southern sponsoring the August Third Thursday event in downtown Joplin. Response was tremendous, and a full block of displays and activities included academic departments, an alumni reception, athletic teams and more.

The first day of classes featured the annual picnic with the highest attendance. Alumni speakers, a live TV broadcast, and a group photo on the oval were part of this event.

The 1972 National Championship foot-

ball team was honored during the home opener football game on September 8. A fireworks display ended the game and was punctuated with green and gold fireworks.

Lions Lineage was announced during that first home game as well. This is a list of 75 pivotal people and moments in athletics over the years and people were then able to vote on their top choice. The top 13 were turned into a poster calendar by the Joplin Globe in this collaborative effort.

Homecoming week had the theme "Celebrating 75 Years of Lion Pride."

The campus used the 75th day of classes on November 13 to celebrate as well. A reception for retirees was held in the morning, followed by a cake cutting in Billingsly Student Center. The Memorial Plaza that had been dedicated to veterans during the university's 50th anniversary was rededicated, and a veterans' flag was raised in honor of all branches of the service. The Lions' Den and bookstore had specials commemorating the anniversary throughout the day.

The spring semester will see many activities. The theatre department is producing "The Patsy," the first play to be produced on campus. It runs February 5-9 and again on April 26. Several activities are scheduled during an event called Spring Spree in late April.

In addition to one-time events, oth-

ers are occurring throughout the year. For example, Student Activities is hosting "Movies Through the Decades," when each month a movie is shown from a different decade starting with *Gone with the Wind* from the 1930s and ending with *The Hobbit* on May 9. All movies are shown in Phelps Theatre in Beimdick Recreation Center, and the public is invited to join in the fun.

A commemorative wine was produced by alumni Erv and LeeAnn Langan, who own Keltoi Winery in Oronogo, Missouri. The special Norton wine is available for purchase at Caldones Restaurant in Joplin, Pistol Creek in Carthage, or directly through Keltoi Winery. Only 300 bottles were produced, and the cost for the special-label red wine is \$20 per bottle, with proceeds benefiting the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund.

And what anniversary celebration would be complete without a history book? Brad Belk, executive director of the Joplin Museum Complex and this year's recipient of the Lion-Hearted award, has been working closely with the Alumni Association and alumni to produce a history book. The book is a compilation of stories and memories from the university's history. It will be released during the spring semester.

— JoAnn Graffam, '87, Vice President for Development and Executive Director, Missouri Southern Foundation





# Where in the world?

For decades, students have been trained to travel the globe.

As the family stepped off the plane, the young mother couldn't help but feel scared. After all, moving from the United States to the United Arab Emirates was a huge change for a family who had spent most of its time in Missouri or Colorado.

"The first thing I noticed was the humidity," Tracy Getchell said. "The people were so nice to us. They were so kind to us. Any preconceived ideas I had were just shattered from the first minute we arrived."

The overwhelming support and acceptance by their adopted country helped Dr. Roy, '91, and Tracy, '98, Getchell feel comfortable and welcome from the beginning. They settled in with their two young daughters and never regretted the decision to teach in the UAE in 2009.

Dating back to the days of Joplin Junior College, and now as Missouri Southern, the university has been sending students abroad to discover new countries and cultures. For the Getchells, their time as elementary education majors at Southern prepared them for this new adventure.

"Tracy went through the international program at Southern and was one of the first ones to go through the Southampton program, so that opened her eyes to international teaching and opportunities," Roy said. "We might not have taken that risk without that."

In 1998, Tracy completed her student teaching in Southampton, England, with Dr. Vikki Spencer, professor of teacher education. The Getchells eventually settled in Colorado Springs, where Tracy taught elementary school and Roy was a principal. After 11 years, Roy's former superintendent, who had taken a position in the UAE, contacted him about a job.

"This kind of came out of the blue, and yes there was a little hesitation because in the back of my mind I think we all had a vision of what the region would look like," Roy said. "I didn't know, but it felt like it was what I was suppose to do."

Roy Getchell, '91, holds a Master's in guidance and counseling from Missouri State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Denver. He and Tracy, '98, have been married for 21 years. This is the first time they have worked outside the United States.



*Dr. Roy, '91, and Tracy, '98, Getchell came home to visit southwest Missouri family and friends and the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center in July. The Getchells are educators in the United Arab Emirates, where they live with their two daughters, Dori and Avari. — Photo by Rhonda Clark, '00*

After much discussion and prayer, the family decided the job was a great opportunity. Roy is the campus director for the Emirates National School's Mohamed Bin Zayed City Campus, which includes grades kindergarten through 12th and about 2,700 students. Tracy is a third-grade teacher at the system's Abu Dhabi City Campus, where their daughters, Dori, 10, and Avari, 7, attend school.

Tracy refers to the people of the UAE as "Midwest Americans" in their attitudes and culture.

"They have the same values," Roy said. "You go to the parks on weekends, and they're having picnics. They eat chicken from KFC. And they sit out there and play and talk. I think we fit in just fine."

Of course, some locals thought the Getchells had special connections to American pop culture.

"All of the little kids wanted to know if I knew Miley Cyrus," Roy said, "and I'd have to say, 'I'm sorry. I don't.'"

Each summer, the family spends almost a month in southwest Missouri and

in Colorado Springs, where they still own their home. The greatest challenge came in 2011 after the May 22 tornado, which affected several family members. Roy's employer allowed him to return for a week. He wasn't surprised the UAE royal family responded by quickly donating to Joplin's crisis.

"The generosity of the royal family is real," Roy said. "They see a need and want to help — see themselves as American friends. I'm sure they were inspired by the people of Joplin and what they saw."

The Getchells share their experiences with Spencer's classes at Southern via teleconferencing. They assure students they are being well trained to take on new challenges.

Roy values the education he and Tracy received at Southern and encourages students to take advantage of study abroad opportunities.

"The world has gotten so small," he said. "Preparing students internationally is so important."

— Rhonda Clark, '00





*Left, Jeff Fraley, freshman sprinter, qualifies in the 100- and 200- meter races for the NCAA Division II Championships.*

*Center, senior, Lydia Niemegeers, earns All-MIAA honorable mention.*

*Right, Nicole Green, senior shot put thrower, qualifies for the NCAA Division II National Championship. — Photos by Mike Gullett*

# It's a wrap ...

## Southern excels in spring events

### Men's Outdoor Track & Field

The team had another stellar year as the Lions qualified six individuals for the NCAA Division II Championships.

Freshman Jeff Fraley qualified in both the 100- and 200-meter races, while fellow freshman Darion Boure qualified in the triple jump. Sophomore Clark Tanksley qualified in the high jump, while junior Dustin Green and freshman Nicklas Polizzi both qualified in the discus. Junior Michael Juergens qualified in the pole vault after missing all of the indoor season with an injury.

Four of those six qualifiers earned All-American status for the Lions at nationals. Green finished fourth in the discus, while Tanksley was seventh in the high jump. Fraley picked up his second All-American honor in the 200-meter after earning one in the indoor season, while Boure finished eighth in the triple jump.

In all, the Lions set two school records in the outdoor season. Actually, they set them multiple times, as both Fraley and Boure set the marks in the 100-meter and the triple jump more than once. Add that to the three school records the Lions set in the indoor season, and it was an awesome year for the men.

The Lions weren't just doing it all on the track, but in the classroom, as well. Jake Benton was named a CoSIDA Academic All-District selection, while both

Fraley and Polizzi were named Scholar Athletes by the Track and Field Coaches Association.

### Women's Outdoor Track & Field

The team continued its success by qualifying four different individuals in six events for the NCAA Division II National Championships.

Senior Lisa Vengels qualified in both the high jump and the heptathlon, while senior Nicole Green qualified once again in the shot put. Sophomore Jasmin Hughes qualified for both the 100- and 200-meter races. Freshman Melanie Bower, the 2012

MIAA Indoor Pole Vault Champion, qualified in that event for the first time.

Green picked up her fifth overall All-American honor with a fourth-place showing in the shot put. She was also performing well in the classroom, as the senior was named a third-team Academic All-American. The Lions had nine different individuals named Scholar Athletes by the Track and Field Coaches Association.

Southern finished third in both the indoor and outdoor MIAA Championships. The 4x100-meter relay team at the outdoor meet provided the winning point in the Sonic Trophy Series for Missouri Southern, the third-straight trophy the Lions have won in the series.

### Softball (16-35)

The team suffered some early season injuries and dealt with the loss of a few key players before finishing 16-35 overall, 5-15 in the MIAA.

The Lions had four players earn All-MIAA honors after the season. Senior Breanna Volkmann earned second team honors as she led the Lions in batting average, .353, and on base percentage, .400. Volkmann also had team highs with 54 hits and two triples.

Three other Lions earned honorable mention honors as seniors Lydia Niemegeers and Brianna Fulkerson joined sophomore Shelby Romines. Niemegeers finished with a .286 batting average and collecting 36 hits and 17 RBIs, while starting at catcher in 46 of the team's 51 games this season. Fulkerson started and played

*Left, Cody Griebeling, senior pitcher, earns first-team All-MIAA and second team All-Region.*

*Center, Jared Essary, senior golfer, helps the team throughout a year of rebuilding.*

*Right, senior Breanna Volkmann, earns All-MIAA second team. — Photos by Mike Gullett*





in 47 games at second base for Southern and finished with a .290 batting average with 16 RBIs and 45 hits, eight of which went for doubles. Romines stepped into a starting role this year at first base and finished second on the team in batting average with a .296 average while playing in all 51 games. She recorded 23 RBIs, four doubles, one triple and two home runs on her way to 42 hits on the season.

## Golf

In what would be a rebuilding year for a young team, the group was competitive in the 2011-12 season.

The Lions would play in five events in the fall and six in the spring. Starting with the Missouri Intercollegiate held at Lake of the Ozarks, the Lions would go on to finish 10th at the PSU Invite and ninth at the SBU Invitational. The Lions would open up the spring season with an eighth-place finish at Arkansas Tech, where the team would have its second-lowest round of the year, a 303, and junior Ben Knight would tie for

17th overall in the final standings.

The team followed that up with an eighth-place finish at Washburn and its best round of the year, as the Lions shot a 300 and were tied for second place after the first day. Sophomore Ryan Russell finished tied for 17th in the event. The Lions' final event proved to be one of their better ones, as Southern finished sixth in the MIAA Championships held at Paradise Point in Smithville, Missouri. Russell finished tied for eighth place overall in the individual standings, and the Lions finished in sixth place in the final MIAA team standings.

## Baseball (32-19)

The baseball team saw another successful season under head coach Bryce Darnell as the Lions had their second 30-plus wins under the MSSU alum.

Southern finished the season 32-19 and was 23-17 in the MIAA, good enough for a third-place finish in the league. Although the season ended with a defeat in the first

round of the MIAA Tournament, the year had plenty of highs.

The Lions started the year 11-0 and jumped into the National Poll at No. 24. After moving their record to 15-1, the Lions moved all the way up to No. 11 in Division II. The Lions finished the year batting .310 as a team and had a 3.74 team ERA. Southern also broke a school record for fielding percentage, finishing the year with a .962 average.

Senior pitcher Cody Griebing was named a first-team All-MIAA selection and a second team All-Region pick after going 9-4 with 74 strikeouts and a 3.19 ERA. Luke Acosta was a second-team All-MIAA pick, while Jesse Kinzey, Cullen Baxter, Michael McCoy, Sam Ryan and David Reese were named honorable mention All-MIAA.

Griebing kept his high going as he signed a professional contract to play baseball with the Schaumburg Boomers of the independent Frontier League.

— Justin Maskus,

Athletics Media Relations Director

# Lions notebook

## Hall of Fame inducts four in September campus ceremony

The Missouri Southern Athletics Hall of Fame inducted four on September 22: Dr. Hal Bodon; Heather (Hoyle) Sams, '99; Katie (Gariss) Marsh, '02; and Eddin Santiago, '02.

Bodon was the first head coach of the Southern men's soccer program, introducing the sport in 1972. The team's first games were played in 1976. He was head coach for 11 seasons, later moving to the classroom full time as a professor of communications until his retirement in 1996. Bodon has a career record of 138-74-21. Hal Bodon Field is named in his honor.

Hoyle-Sams was an All-American, where she was a sprinter for the track and field team. An All-MIAA honoree in each of the four years she competed at Southern, Hoyle-Sams was also on the MIAA Academic Honor Roll in each of those seasons. She earned Academic All-American honors and is the school record holder in the indoor 55-meter dash, as well as the outdoor 4x100m relay.

She graduated from the honors program in 1999 with a degree in premed (biology) and earned a master's in allied health from the University of Oklahoma. Hoyle-Sams



*From left, Dr. Hal Bodon, Heather (Hoyle) Sams, '99; Katie (Gariss) Marsh, '02; and Eddin Santiago, '02, hold their portraits as they are recognized along with other Hall of Fame members at the September 22 football game at Fred G. Hughes Stadium. — Photo by Sam Pogue, '13*

is a physician's assistant at an asthma and allergy clinic in Bentonville, Arkansas.

Gariss-Marsh was a three-year starter in basketball from 1998-2002. Named the CoSIDA Academic All-American of the Year in 2002, she is one of only two Southern student-athletes to earn that honor. She was named first-team All-MIAA and All-District in 2000-01. She finished her career as the eighth-leading scorer in Missouri Southern history with 1,230 points.

Gariss-Marsh graduated with a 4.0

GPA, while in the honors program, and is a physician's assistant at Ortho of the Four States in Joplin, Missouri.

Santiago is quite possibly the best point guard to wear the green and gold. He was a four-year starter and finished his career as the all-time leader in assists and steals, while ranking second all-time in games played.

Santiago helped lead the best team in Southern history. His 1999-2000 Lions finished 30-3 and went to the Division II Elite Eight, before falling in the semifinals by 1 to eventual champion Metro State.

Santiago was a three-time, first-team All-MIAA selection, while being named three times to the All-Region team. He was an All-American selection twice and was named the MVP of the 2000 NCAA Division II Central Region Tournament. He graduated in 2002 with a degree in criminal justice administration. He plays in the Superior Basketball League in Puerto Rico, where his team won the 2007 Championship.

— Justin Maskus,

Athletics Media Relations Director





# Tops on & off the field

Grad returns to assist Southern soccer as she prepares for admission to medical school.



Michelle Dimza, '12  
— Photo by Debrah Trout, '13

When it comes to Michelle Dimza, her accomplishments speak for themselves. What most people do not know is the commitment and hard work she put toward reaching her goals.

For her efforts, Dimza was named the 2012 Outstanding Graduate by the Missouri Southern Alumni Association. The premed major graduated Summa Cum Laude, one of the highest collegiate honors. And, she was also a standout on the soccer field.

"It really was not all that difficult to balance school and soccer because I was passionate about both," Dimza said. "On the field, soccer was my sole focus. After practice, studying rarely felt like a chore because I was interested in the concepts."

This coming year, the Southern grad will spend her time studying for the Medical College Admission Test and apply in the spring for the 2014 matriculation to various medical schools in and out of the state of Missouri, based on their curriculum. Dimza also earned her Certified Nurse Assistant this fall, which will

allow her to work in a medical setting this winter.

"To me, I believe this is the best way to prepare for a career in the medical field," Dimza said. "I will be able to get patient-centered experience, which was difficult for me to achieve during my undergraduate as a student-athlete."

Her junior and senior years, Dimza tutored students in biology and was also a peer mentor and member of the Alpha Chi Honor Society. She had many influences in her college career, but one person stands out — Dr. James Jackson, former professor of biology.

"He had inspired me with his dedication to students' success," Dimza said. "He had the highest confidence in each student to obtain his or her goals."

On the soccer field, Dimza served as a two-year captain.

She was a three-time member of the MIAA Academic Honor Roll and was a two-time MIAA Scholar athlete while earning Honorable Mention in 2009. Dimza received the Lionbacker Excellence Award in 2011, which is given to one ath-

lete on each team for his or her leadership qualities. Michelle's 86 career shots ranks her seventh all-time in Southern soccer history.

"I was very fortunate to have had an opportunity to coach Michelle," head coach Alese Woolard, '06, said. "She was a great player and a great leader. She was the type of player you could call on in difficult situations and put pressure on her knowing she could handle anything."

Over the summer, Dimza played for the Women's Premiere Soccer League in Seattle. The league also had players from Trinidad, England and Italy. Dimza's team advanced out of its division and went to San Diego for the regional tournament.

This fall, she was the assistant coach for Southern's soccer team.

Dimza's advice to other student-athletes is to work hard and focus on the things they can control.

"I was dedicated in focusing on what I could control," she said. "Not only was I able to excel in sports, I was able to excel in my academics."

— Larrita Gipson, '12



*First, I would just like to say what an honor it is to even be considered for such an award. I know firsthand of the outstanding qualifications, achievements, and character of my fellow classmates, especially those nominated for this award as well.*

*My four years at Missouri Southern have certainly been memorable. Anyone who has met the girls on my soccer team knows there is never a dull moment. But in between those outrageous moments, were the life-changing experiences that shaped my character and made me who I am today. The lessons I've learned as a peer mentor, tutor and volunteer in the community are things I will hold close as I enter a career dedicated to service. Honestly, I can only hope that I have given back half of what I have gained while at Missouri Southern.*

*I would like to thank my coach Alese Woolard, who had the confidence to nominate me for this award. Coach Woolard gave me the opportunity and encouragement to take on a leadership role. I would also like to thank all of my professors for the patience and interest they showed toward student-athletes like myself. There were several instances my professors found time in their schedules to make up labs that I had missed while traveling for soccer. My appreciation and curiosity for science has been fostered by your dedication and love for what you do.*

*I would like to give a special thanks to my adviser Dr. (Mike) Lawson for directing me in a way to reach my future goals. Also, to Dr. Jim Jackson for setting me up with an outstanding internship in Minnesota, that again was a once-in-the-lifetime experience that I can attribute to the privilege of being a Missouri Southern student. And last but certainly not least, my mother and father, who have supported me in literally every way possible. They were the parents who drove eight hours in one day to see a 90-minute soccer game and again to be here tonight. My parents have raised me to be independent and open-minded and have gone along with every one of my crazy endeavors.*

*The strength of this community and the people who have been in my life over the past four years has certainly impacted my future. I hope that wherever I end up, and whatever I am doing, it is something that can make everyone in this room proud that I am a Missouri Southern alumnus.*

— Outstanding Graduate speech given by Michelle Dimza, '12, on April 25, 2012

# 2012 Michelle Dimza OUTSTANDING GRADUATE



# Art smarts

## Southern alum earns statewide recognition.

The art class students at Carterville Elementary lined up quietly and calmly, hands behind their backs with boys on one side, girls on the other. One boy played with the chairs and tables as he hopped to the line. The teacher had him go back to his seat and try again. After all the children lined up, the teacher sang a song called "S-M-I-L-E" and the children sang along.

Part of Nellie Mitchell's classroom management system includes the philosophy that "It is so nice to have the children quiet and smiling as they walk out of the classroom."

This teaching style, along with letters of recommendation from colleagues, are a few things that earned Mitchell, '05, the honor of being named Missouri's Art Educator of the Year by the National Art Education Association in 2012.

"My favorite part about my job would be the relationships with students, especially in this building," Mitchell said. "I have them for kindergarten through fourth grade. Over the course of five years, I really get to know them and watch them grow up."

Mitchell was recognized and gave a speech in acceptance for her award at the Missouri Art Education Association Spring Conference on March 24. Previous to the Missouri Conference, Mitchell went to the National Art Education Association National Convention on March 4 in New York City along with her former instructor Josie Mai, assistant professor of art at Missouri Southern.



Missouri Southern graduate Nellie Mitchell stands in front of artwork created by students in her art classes at Carterville Elementary in the Webb City School District. — Photo by Samantha Zoltanski, '14

When Mitchell heard Mai was going, she was more than excited to join her.

"I didn't realize I was going to be recognized in New York," Mitchell said. "It made the trip even more special."

Mitchell was surprised when she was awarded again at the national convention with a gold keychain and certificate.

Mai describes Mitchell as infectious and contagious.

"She is outgoing, positive, creative and extremely organized," Mai said. "She lives life with her eyes wide open and invites you along for the ride."

"She is driven to share her art and phi-

losophy of life with the world."

Mitchell teaches and serves on a committee at Spiva Center for the Arts in Joplin, hosts the popular Nelliepalooza for weekend crafters, and maintains a professional and captivating blog called "This Little Blog of Mine."

Mitchell teaches two other classes at Spiva Center for the Arts — Art Lounge and Pinterest Anonymous.

Art Lounge, sponsored by Joplin residents David and Debra Humphreys, is a Monday afterschool program that lasts nine weeks. Students explore studios of local artists as they gain inspiration and





Go online to check out Nellie Mitchell's blog, "This Little Blog of Mine."  
[nelliemaeii.blogspot.com/](http://nelliemaeii.blogspot.com/)

insight. They also learn how a blog can inspire others and showcase their artwork.

Pinterest Anonymous is a new class designed to get people off the computer to make some of the items they have "pinned." Pinterest Anonymous is offered the second Saturday of every month.

Mitchell will have artwork at the 63rd

Annual Membership Show in the Spiva Main Gallery from November 16 through January 6.

"She is a leader and innovator in her field, as well as a devoted artist and friend," Mai said.

— Michelle Winfrey, '12,  
and Samantha Zoltanski, '14

## NELLIE MITCHELL, '05

### Professional

Art Teacher at Carterville Elementary, in the Webb City, Missouri, school district

### Education

Missouri Southern, 2005

### Hometown

Granby, Missouri

### Personal

Spouse: Jeremy Mitchell

*"My favorite part about my job would be the relationships with students."*



# Lion Tales

By Samantha Zoltanski, '14

*"Integrity, work ethic, passion and excitement  
— those are probably your main keys to success."*

Joe Culp, '93

Missouri Southern alumnus and owner of CheeZies Pizza and Simple Simon's Pizza

## JOE CULP

**Who:** Missouri Southern alumnus, business administration, 1993.

**What:** Owner of three Missouri restaurants — CheeZies Pizza in Joplin and Neosho and Simple Simon's Pizza in Granby.

**Inspiration:** I always had the entrepreneurial spirit and was always doing stuff on the side, whether it was construction or whatsoever; I was doing my own businesses. That's just always where my heart was — to be self-employed full time. What caused me to take that first step was my wife.

**Keys to Success:** I would say the keys to success are hard work, willing to do the work, and good management. Be conservative. Reinvest in our businesses and grow our businesses.

**Greatest Challenge:** Employees are always your greatest challenge in a business and are more difficult in a larger location. It is hard to find people that want to work and have a work ethic.

**Advice:** Coming out of college, work for someone else initially and get some experience under your belt. The key to anything on your own, in owning a business, is hard work. It all boils down to that; that is really the beginning of it. Be willing to put in some hard work and have some excitement and passion.

Have an entrepreneurial tale to tell? Send Lion Tales info to [Alumni.Assoc@mssu.edu](mailto:Alumni.Assoc@mssu.edu) or call 417-659-LION.



Owner Joe Culp, '93, of Neosho, Missouri, recently reopened CheeZies Pizza at 32nd and Connecticut Avenue in Joplin after the 2011 tornado destroyed the previous location. Culp also owns CheeZies Pizza in Neosho and Simple Simon's Pizza in Granby, Missouri.— Photo by Samantha Zoltanski, '14



# 75 Years of Lion Pride –

*So much more  
to the story...*

*go  
lions!*

*Get a load  
of these gals!*



*Check  
these out!*



*Do you recognize these lovely twirlers?*

*MOSO  
forever!*

*This crazy group made their own fun at MSSC!*



Experience Missouri Southern through  
others' eyes over the past 75 years  
in a great collection of stories, photos  
and other fun tidbits!

Reminisce with us  
and pre-order your  
book today!

See next page for details.





Enjoy a part of Missouri Southern's history by pre-purchasing a book about the past 75 years.

*75 Years of Lion Pride – So much more to the story ...* is a fun look back beginning in the days of Joplin Junior College up to today.

Be a part of the book! You can even purchase a book with your own dedication page and customize the book so that your favorite college photos and memories are included.

**75 Years of Lion Pride –**  
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→ *Customization* ←

Deadline for customization is February 28, 2013

DEDICATION PAGE:

This book is dedicated to: \_\_\_\_\_ from: \_\_\_\_\_

Personalization of up to 300 words here:

\_\_\_\_\_  
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PAYMENT INFORMATION:

Book available for pickup beginning April 26, 2013. Shipping charges may apply.

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Cash ☐ Check (payable to: MSSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION) ☐ Credit Card

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Expires: \_\_\_\_\_ 3-digit Security Code (found on back of card): \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this completed form and payment to: MSSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, 3950 E. Newman Rd., Joplin, MO 64801  
For more information call 417-659-LION (5466).



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**75 Years of Lion Pride – So much more to the story ...**

The Missouri Southern State University Alumni Association office reserves the right to edit the material to suit the presentation and available space, but wherever possible the author will be consulted on any additions or changes. Our goal is to make the best statement on the subject that we can. In any disputes, the judgment of the editors will be final.





# Show Your Pride!

## License to Learn

Donate \$25 to the MSSU Alumni Association and qualify for a plate! Show your allegiance to Missouri Southern State University by displaying a collegiate license plate on your car and give others a "License to Learn" by supporting this special program which supports the Alumni Association's Scholarship Fund!

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**Find out more at [www.mssu.edu/alumni/](http://www.mssu.edu/alumni/)**



## CLASSNOTES

**69** **Ron Richard**, '69, was elected majority leader of the Missouri State Senate.

**98** **Dusty Reid**, '98, is the Superintendent at Roaring River State Park.

**99** **Aaron Lewis**, '99, is the Director of Conventions and Meetings at Missouri Southern State University.

**Donald Simon**, '99, is the Senior Procurement Analyst IT at YRC Worldwide, Inc.

**00** **Cassie Mathes**, '00, is the Director of University Relations and Marketing for Missouri Southern State University.

**02** **Jeff Meredith**, '02, is the Executive Director of the Monett Chamber of Commerce.

**03** **Blake Bard**, '03, is the new Executive Director of the Freeman Foundation.

**Sherrie Smith**, '03, is a plant pathologist/instructor for the University of Arkansas. She is a plant diagnostician for Arkansas and runs the plant health clinic located at the university farm in Fayetteville.

**08** **Seth Lingenfelter**, '08, is a May 2012 graduate from Assemblies of God Theological Seminary in Springfield, Missouri, with a Master of Arts in Christian Ministries.

**09** **Heather Schuster**, '09, is the Coordinator of Career Services at Missouri Southern State University.

**Megan Walker**, '09, is the Business Development Manager at Addison Group.

**10** **Alicia (Martin) Buffer**, '10, is the Community Relations Specialist at the Cherokee Nation Businesses

**12** **Jordynn (Poe) Griffith**, '12, is the Prevention Services Assistant at LifeChoices Medical Clinic.

**Joanna Lee**, '12, is the Development Coordinator at Bright Futures USA.  
— Reports from MSSU Alumni Association office

## FUTURELION

Jamie Tallman, '04, and Jessica (Selby) Tallman, '09, are proud parents of Josie Mae Tallman, who was born September 26, 2012.



## INMEMORIAM

## JOPLIN JUNIOR COLLEGE

**Justice George Baldrige**

April 17, 2012

**Howard Belk**

May 4, 2012

**Robert Ferguson**

May 27, 2012

**Richard Green**

May 15, 2012

**Ronald Howard**

August 26, 2012

**Phyllis Kaltenbach**

May 10, 2012

**Ronald Gene Lofton**

March 27, 2012

**Billy Yates Murray**

August 1, 2012

**Bernard Riggs**

August 30, 2012

**George William Sullivan**, '42

August 23, 2012

## 1960s

**Stephen Hodson**, '60

July 2, 2012

## 1970s

**Mary Davis**, '70

August 15, 2012

**William J. Bill Boyd**, '75 and '96

September 22, 2012

**Patrick Thompson**, '76

September 7, 2012

**Joel D. Patterson**, '78

April 20, 2012

## 1980s

**Bonnie Kay Gary**, '89

May 29, 2012

**Laura Wallace**, '89

August 8, 2012

## 2000s

**Nicole Collins**, '04

September 21, 2012

## FRIENDS OF MSSU

**Mary Louise Bates**

August 14, 2012

**Steve Crockett**

July 6, 2012

**Jack Daniel**

August 23, 2012

**Don Hutson**

October 2, 2012

**Greg Pritchard**

July 2, 2012

**Bethany Shimmmin**

August 27, 2012

**Gregory Smith**


June 27, 2012

**Robert E. Young Jr.**

May 24, 2012

Have something you want to share with your fellow alumni? Send us your information.

Missouri Southern Alumni Association  
3950 East Newman Road  
Joplin, MO 64801  
or via email, [AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu](mailto:AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu)

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[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com).

## Missouri Southern remembers faculty and friends

**Bobbie Zoe Short** died August 2, 2012. She had been battling difficult health issues for some time.

Bobbie was born June 2, 1922, in Hartsville, Missouri, to Barton Frank and Effie Richardson. She graduated from Mountain Grove High School at age 16. In 1942, she

received her Bachelor's in English/Communications in Secondary Education from Southwest Missouri State Teachers College (now Missouri State University) in Springfield, before serving in the U.S. Army Air Force from 1944-46.

She married Joel William Short in 1947.

They started and operated the *Tri County News* until they moved to Monett, Missouri, in 1948. The Shorts moved to Joplin in 1950, where they lived the remainder of their lives. Bobbie taught English for the Joplin Public Schools at South and East Junior Highs. In 1962, she taught for Joplin Junior



College in English and communications and continued teaching at Missouri Southern State University, retiring in 1987.

Her husband preceded her in death in 2002. She is survived by her daughter, Debbie Fowler; son, Joel B. Short; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Marjorie DeAnn "De" Kaughman**, Carthage, Missouri, died August 27, 2012, after a yearlong battle with melanoma cancer. She was born April 17, 1952, in Lamar, Missouri, the daughter of Howard Harris and Betty Trout Harris. She graduated from Carthage Senior High School in 1970 and worked in the accounting department for Missouri Southern State University for 28 years, retiring in May 2011.

Survivors include two sons, Cory and Eric Kaughman; four grandchildren; her mother, Betty Emery; and her four siblings. She was preceded in death by her father; and her stepfather, Clifford Emery.

**Richard (Dick) C. Rubison**, Carthage, Missouri, died June 25, 2012, after a long illness. Dick was married to Ruth I. Kolpin Rubison; she survives.

Dick was born June 17, 1924, in Hannibal, Missouri, to Howard C. and Mary Elizabeth (Marie) Middendorf. Dick attended Notre Dame High School and Quincy College in Quincy, Illinois. After completing his bachelor's degree, Dick married Mary Catherine Lenane on November 9, 1946.

While in Quincy, Dick taught chemistry at Quincy College, was director of the metallurgical laboratory at Gardner Denver and then became personnel director of Motorola. Dick accepted a transfer with Motorola to the Webb City facility in 1974. After Mary Catherine's death in 1981, he remained in the Joplin area.

He was married to Birdie Belle Stephens Garoutte from 1984 until her death in 1997. During this time, Dick retired from his work at Motorola after 20 years of service.

Dick met Ruth at the Joplin Historical Society House of Lords Celebration at the Holiday Inn June 1998 and began a five-year courtship before they married in 2003.

Throughout his life, Dick was an active member of numerous service, community and volunteer associations and was granted many awards for his faithful service to his community. Some of his longest associations were with The American Red Cross, the Boy

Scouts of America, Rotary International, and the Catholic parishes in each city where he lived.

Dick enjoyed people, music, whistling, dancing, golfing, fishing, playing cards and volunteering. A distinguishing trademark was his laugh and his love of God, family, friends and life.

Dick was preceded in death by his parents and a younger brother, Howard Joseph Rubison. In addition to his wife, Ruth, he is survived by a son, Richard Michael; a daughter, Mary Lynne Bordewick; stepsons A. Dean Petersen and Ronald (Louise) Petersen Sr.; a stepdaughter, Glenna Watkins; 16 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

**Charles L. "Chuck" Surface**, a longtime public servant representing southwest Missouri in city, county and state government, died September 26, 2012, at his home following a battle with cancer.

Chuck was born February 5, 1944, in Webb City, Missouri, and lived in the Joplin-Webb City area most of his life.

Chuck was a graduate of Webb City High School and earned an Associate of Arts and Bachelor of Science in marketing and management from Missouri Southern State University and was currently completing a Master's from the University of Missouri in Public Administration. Chuck served his country in the U.S. Air Force for four years.

Chuck was serving the City of Webb City as Economic Development Director. He formerly owned the Surface Insurance Co. in Joplin for 37 years. His public service career included work on the Joplin Zoning and Planning Commission and the Joplin City Council. Chuck served in the state legislature for 18 years, becoming the second longest legislator in the history of Jasper County. He was Presiding Commissioner of Jasper County from 2003-06.

Some of Chuck's community service included serving on the Board of Governors for Missouri Southern State University, Missouri Southern Alumni Association Board of Directors, Joplin Boys Club Board of Directors, Chairman of the Board of the Missouri Special Olympics, and President of the Joplin Jaycees.

Chuck was named the Missouri Southern Outstanding Alumnus in 1987.

Chuck is survived by his wife, Sherry; son, Jason D. Surface; two daughters, Christi

and Kim Houston; and a granddaughter.

**Dr. Patrick Alan Thompson** died September 7, 2012, after a two-year battle with cancer.

Pat was born December 6, 1954, in Joplin, Missouri. He graduated from Memorial High School in 1972. He attended Missouri Southern State University and graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in biology in 1976. While at Southern, he worked as a sportswriter for the *Joplin Globe*.

In 1980, he received his Doctor of Dental Surgery from the UMKC School of Dentistry. Upon graduation, Pat was commissioned as a captain in the U.S. Air Force.

In 1984, Pat returned to Joplin and opened his private practice. In 2010, Pat and his wife, Debbie, built their dream facility. Six weeks after the grand opening, Pat was diagnosed with an aggressive malignant brain tumor. Many area dentists volunteered days of their time to keep the office afloat while he received medical care.

Pat won many awards for his dentistry. He became the first Missouri dentist to receive a fellowship in oral conscious sedation and was one of 65 dentists worldwide inducted as charter members of the Crown Council of Hunt, Texas. He and Debbie participated annually in the Dentistry from the Heart Program, providing free dental care.

A St. Louis Cardinals fanatic, Pat played on, coached and managed his sons' teams, youth all-star, and men's coed and church league softball teams to many championships. He also announced MSSU baseball games at Joe Becker Stadium.

He served on the Board of Directors and was a past president of Twin Hills Golf and Country Club; was president of the Thomas Jefferson Independent Day School Booster Club; was a longtime member of First United Methodist Church in Joplin where he sang in the Sanctuary Singers and taught Sunday school; and was a past president of the MSSU Alumni Board, Joplin Board of Health and other civic organizations.

He was preceded in death by their daughter, Leigh. He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Debbie; sons Mike and Brad Thompson; his parents, Paul and Joy Thompson; and brothers Bob and Tim Thompson.

*Memoriam listing and obituaries current as of October 1, 2012. Send additions for the next issue to AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu or call 417-659-LION.*



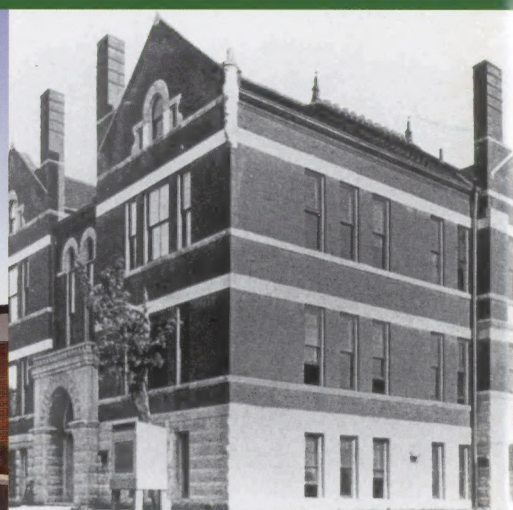
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# 75TH ANNIVERSARY

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Our celebration of 75 years of Lion  
pride continues into spring 2013. Go  
to [www.mssu.edu/75th-anniversary](http://www.mssu.edu/75th-anniversary)  
for events and more information.

